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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 69/NO. 28 JULY 25, 2005

INSIDE
1,500 copper workers on strike in Arizona and Texas
—PAGE 6

N.Y. campaigners hit streets to put socialist slate on ballot



Militant/Arrin Hawkins

Campaigners met with a good response while petitioning in Manhattan's Garment District to place Socialist Workers Party candidates on the ballot in New York City.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK—Reaching out to workers and young people with a working-class alternative, campaigners hit the streets here July 12 to launch a 12-day petitioning effort to put the Socialist Workers Party slate on the ballot in the city elections.

"We've met working people, students, and others who told us they're glad to find a campaign that speaks to the interests of workers and farmers, with a platform that starts with the world," said Martín Koppel, the Socialist Workers candidate for New York mayor.

Campaigners have been taking the socialist platform across the city, from the mid-Manhattan Garment District to working-class neighborhoods in Jamaica, Queens.

In addition to Koppel, the SWP slate includes Dan Fein for city comptroller, Arrin Hawkins for Manhattan borough president, and Sarah Katz for Bronx borough president.

The campaigners plan to collect 20,000 signatures by July 23—well more than double the 7,500 required—to put the socialist slate on the strongest footing to win ballot status.

A full-time team of petitioners has been fanning out daily across the city. On the weekends of July 16 and July 23, dozens of additional volunteers will join campaign teams.

Speaking to a *Militant* reporter after a full day of campaigning, team member Julian Santana, 24, said, "The response to our campaign in Harlem was very good. A number of people signed right away after seeing our sign calling for prosecution of the racist thugs who attacked three Black youth in Howard Beach." Besides collecting nearly 260

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British gov't uses bombings to deepen antilabor assault

Bosses press wars abroad, 'national unity' at home

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON—Seizing on the July 7 bombings here, the British government has launched a campaign of "national unity" in order to diminish popular opposition to stepped-up restrictions on the political rights of working people. These proposed measures include new "antiterrorism" legislation to widen the powers of the political police to carry out spying and disruption operations.

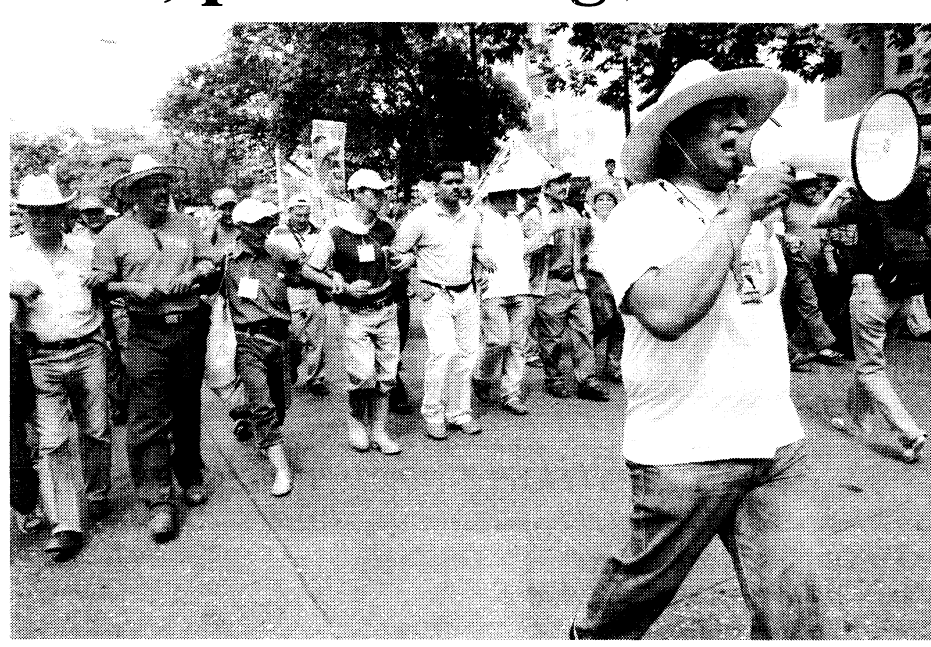
Statement by Communist League in United Kingdom
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"We will hold true to the British way of life," declared Prime Minister Anthony Blair July 7 as he returned from a G-8 summit meeting of eight major governments. In contrast with the bombings, he declared, the imperialist-led summit was helping with "problems of poverty in Africa."

On July 12, a few days after the attacks, police announced they had identified four men who had carried bombs onto three London Tube (subway) trains and a bus, killing more than 50 people. The press reported that the four had been caught on video by

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Venezuelan peasants demand land, protest thug attacks



Militant/Argiris Malapanis

Some 5,000 peasants march in Caracas July 11 to demand justice and to protest the murder of 130 peasant leaders by thugs of capitalist farmers and landlords over the last six years. They also demanded land and credit.

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS AND CARLOS CORNEJO

CARACAS, Venezuela—More than 5,000 peasants from across the country marched here July 11. They protested the murders of some 130 peasant leaders at the hands of the thugs of big capitalist farmers and landowners over the last six years. They also called on the government to step up the issuing of titles to landless rural families and credits to working farmers.

"Since President Hugo Chávez decreed a 'war on the *latifundios*' [large estates], the big landowners have been waging a veritable war against us," Claudio Ditulio, a peasant from the Rojas municipality in Barinas state, told the *Militant*. Ditulio is a representative of the Ezequiel Zamora National Peasant Front, one of the main groups that sponsored the action.

"In the last six months, hitmen have been killing almost one peasant a week. And no one has been arrested or convicted for the murders," he said.

"Justice! Justice! No impunity for the landowners," chanted the protesters as

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As we go to press: Victory in Seattle!

BY STEVE CLARK

SEATTLE, July 14—As we go to press, the Socialist Workers Party has won the first and largest battle in its fight here in the State of Washington to be exempted from publicly disclosing names, addresses, and jobs of financial contributors to its election campaigns. At a hearing late this afternoon, the Seattle Ethics and Election Commission (SEEC) ruled in favor of the petition filed on behalf of the 2005 SWP campaign for mayor of Seattle.

Chris Hoeppner, a meat packer and veteran trade unionist and socialist campaigner, is the party's mayoral candidate. The campaign was represented at the hearing by Seattle political rights attorney Jim Lobsenz.

In 1997 the SEEC denied the SWP an exemption, which since the 1970s has been granted by the Federal Election Commission and other local and state election boards—including by the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission. Identifying contributors, the socialists point out, has for decades, in Seattle and throughout the country, provided an "enemies list" for employers, cops, government agencies, and others seeking to victimize supporters of socialist campaigns.

Next week's issue will provide full coverage of the Seattle ruling and of the upcoming hearing before the state's Public Disclosure Commission.

Funds continue to be urgently needed to bring this victory home.

Also Inside:

U.S.-backed Iraqi regime seeks to draw in Sunnis

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—The U.S.-backed regime in Baghdad has approved the addition of 15 prominent political figures who are Sunni Arabs to the committee drafting Iraq's new constitution. At least two of these have publicly expressed support for the formerly ruling Baath Party. In response to the additions to the constitutional committee, two influential Sunni Arab–based organizations have called on Sunnis to vote in upcoming elections to ratify the constitution. The developments register the continued progress by Washington in its goal of a stable U.S.-dominated government in Iraq.

At the same time, Iraqi politicians who are Kurdish, among them Iraq's current president, have sharply condemned Baghdad's delay in implementing a law that would allow the return to the oil-rich city of Kirkuk of tens of thousands of Kurds who had been driven from the area under the Saddam Hussein regime. The tensions between the Kurdish electoral bloc and its coalition partner, the United Iraqi Alliance, over the status of Kirkuk threaten the relative stability of the government.

Role of Sunnis

Hussein's Iraqi Baath Party, which dominated Iraq for decades, established a base of support among wealthy Sunni Arabs, who received privileged treatment, while the Shiite Muslim majority was subjected to second-class citizenship. Since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, bourgeois forces led by Sunnis have been the backbone of financing and organizing armed attacks on U.S. and Iraqi security forces. They largely boycotted the January 30 elections, resulting in only 17 politicians who are Sunni Arab being elected to the 275-member National Assembly. Just two were on the 55-member constitutional committee. Washington has pressed the government to include more, in order to give the regime and the constitution more legitimacy and undercut opposition among Sunnis.

Two of the 15 Sunnis proposed for the constitutional committee have expressed support for the former ruling party. "I still see the Baath Party as the best party we have seen," said Saleh Mutlak, a soil scientist who made his fortune in agriculture during the Hussein regime, quoted in the July 1 *New York Times.* He said he was expelled from the Baath Party in the 1970s for opposing government policies.

"I really believe in the Baath Party," Kamal Hamdoun, the head of the Iraq Bar Association, told the *Times.* Hamdoun said he held no significant posts in the party or the Hussein government but was a member of parliament for eight years. Iraqi critics of the nominees charged that two other Sunni figures, Mijbel Sheik Isa and Haseeb Aref, are former Baath Party officials, a charge they deny.

Humam Hamoudi, head of the constitutional committee, said the committee had concluded that having Sunni participation in writing the constitution was more important than any alleged questionable background.

The new "permanent" constitution is supposed to be drafted by August 15 and submitted to an October referendum, leading to national elections in December.



Getty Images/Marwan Ibrahim

Kurds in Kirkuk, Iraq, celebrate after June 15 swearing-in of Masoud Barzani as president of Iraqi Kurdistan. The Kurds are pressing to advance their struggle for self-determination by reclaiming the city for a Kurdish-administered territory in Iraq.

Leaders of the Sunni Endowment, a government agency responsible for Sunni affairs, said July 4 that several prominent Sunni clerics had decided to issue a religious edict, or *fatwa*, calling on Sunnis to register and vote in upcoming elections, according to press reports. The Sunni-based Iraqi Islamic Party backed the call for Sunnis to vote. Earlier, that party had quit the interim government of prime minister Iyad Allawi in protest against the U.S. ground offensive against Baathist strongholds in Fallujah last November.

In related news, a leader of the Association of Muslim Scholars, an influential Sunni clerical group, condemned the recent kidnapping and armed assaults on diplomats from Arab countries that have established relations with Baghdad. Al-Qaeda in Iraq, led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility for kidnapping and executing Egypt's diplomat to Baghdad, Ihab al-Sharif.

Kurds press for control of Kirkuk

Leading Kurdish political figures, among them Iraq's current president, have sharply condemned Baghdad's delay in implementing a law that would ensure their control of Kirkuk. Article 58 of the Transitional Administrative Law calls for the return to Kirkuk of tens of thousands of Kurds forcibly removed from the city and surrounding province under the "Arabization" policy of the Hussein regime. The policy was aimed at ensuring Baathist control of the region and its oil reserves.

The two main Kurdish parties in Iraq say agreement to implement this law before drafting the constitution was central to their agreement to form a coalition government with the United Iraqi Alliance. The Kurdish electoral bloc led by the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) holds the second-largest number of seats in the National Assembly.

Jalal Talabani, PUK leader and president of Iraq, said Baghdad must implement the law "immediately," reported Al Jazeera TV. He was joined by KDP leader Masoud Barzani, who is the first elected president of the northern autonomous region known as Iraqi Kurdistan.

Kurdish members of Iraq's National Assembly have said that if Article 58 is not implemented Kurds might boycott ratification of the constitution.

The law also states that if two-thirds of voters in any three provinces fail to approve the constitution it will be void. Kurds are a majority in the three northern provinces.



Copper miners picket July 2 near Tucson

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New Zealand: Send NZ$55 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.
Australia: Send A$50 to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.
Pacific Islands: Send NZ$55 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*'s views. These are expressed in editorials.

Venezuela peasants

Continued from front page

they marched for five hours from the Valle neighborhood to downtown Caracas, where they held rallies outside the Ministry of Justice and then at the National Assembly. Many demonstrators carried cornstalks or machetes and marched to the rhythm of drums.

The government had said the January 10 decree Ditulio was referring to would speed up land redistribution, which peasants say has been slow. According to the government's National Land Institute (INTi), in the period between 2001, when a new agrarian reform law was adopted, and the end of last year, 115,000 peasant families received titles to 9 million acres of land, nearly all of it state-owned. Hundreds of thousands remain landless.

About 5 percent of Venezuela's population owns 75 percent of the arable land, much of which is idle. At the same time, Venezuela imports 60 percent of its food.

Battles for land

Many peasants at the march described battles for land they have been involved in. "We've occupied 3,000 hectares [7,400 acres] of the Turagua ranch for six years," said José Querales, a member of the Guaritico farm cooperative in Montecal, Apure state. "We have drilled water wells, we have electricity, and we're producing. But three years after applying, we don't have titles and can't get credit."

About half of the 123,000-acre Turagua cattle ranch is idle, Querales said. It is owned by the Vesteys, a British capitalist family that has fought to prevent hundreds of peasants from taking over another of its ranches, El Charcote, in Cojedes state.

Peasants from several areas of Barinas reported that local authorities have driven them off land they occupied. Ditulio said 300 peasant families have been cultivating thousands of acres of farmland left idle by four big landlords in the Rojas municipality. "The police and National Guard have kicked us out three times in two years but we've been back and we intend to stay," he said.

These struggles by peasants have been met with violence from hired guns. Hilda Pérez de Sanoja described how her husband, Manuel Sanoja, was shot dead on Nov. 27, 2000, after leading peasants in Guanare, Portuguesa state, to occupy idle land claimed by the wealthy Rodríguez family. "Juan Rodríguez's lawyer took Manuel to meet with the owner and his two sons, and that's where he was found dead," she said.

"Now the investigation is over and they know who did it, but neither the attorney general nor anyone else has said a word." Since then, she said, the peasants' struggle to till part of the estate has been paralyzed.

Many of those who have won land titles face an uphill battle in receiving low-interest loans from state banks. Orecho Gonzalo said 84 families in Villa Rosario, Zulia state, obtained titles two years ago after a five-year occupation. But they are still waiting for credit. They are also demanding a road be built from their farms to the town where they sell their produce. They now have to walk six miles to get there.



Militant/Argiris Malapanis

Demanding justice, peasants march July 11 in Caracas, Venezuela. They are holding photos of peasants murdered by hired thugs of capitalist farmers and landlords.

Ibelis Vernet, an economist at INTi, confirmed in an interview that many of the 115,000 farm families who have won land titles have yet to get loans. "The state doesn't have enough resources to give credits to all the peasants requesting it," she said.

A statement by the National Peasant Front, widely distributed at the march and read at the final rally outside the National Assembly, said in part, "We don't see progress toward a transformation of land ownership.... Credits and machinery remain under the control of big ranchers and farmers who have always exploited us. If this is not corrected, a new landlord elite will emerge."

Braulio Álvarez, a founder of the Ezequiel Zamora National Agrarian Coordinating Committee and a National Assembly deputy, also spoke at the rally. On June 23 Álvarez escaped an attempt on his life in his native state of Yaracuy. He told peasants not to vacillate in "our struggle for land and justice."

Ricardo Gutiérrez, vice-president of Venezuela's National Assembly, and agriculture minister Antonio Albarrán sounded a different tone. Albarrán said measures would be taken against the crimes of big landlords and urged "discipline." When Gutiérrez promised a meeting a week later with representatives of the peasant groups to discuss their demands, he was met with cries of disapproval.

Dissatisfied, most protesters marched to the Miraflores presidential palace and camped outside. Many said they would stay there until they could meet with the president.

Olympia Newton contributed to this article.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

***Portrait of Teresa*, an Award-Winning Cuban Film on the Struggle for Women's Equality.** Fri., July 22, 7:30 p.m. *3926 Mission St., Tel: 415-584-2135.*

NEW YORK

Manhattan

War and the Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialism: Some Experiences from World War II and the Korean War. Speaker: Tom Leonard, veteran leader of the SWP. Sat., July 16. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. **Celebrate Conclusion of Petitioning Effort to Put Socialist Workers Candidates on New York Ballot.** Speakers: New York SWP candidates. Sat., July 23. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. *Both events at 307 W. 36th St., 10th Floor (north elevators) Tel: (212) 629-6649. Donation: $5 dinner, $5 program.*

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Behind Rift in the AFL-CIO: The Real Road to Building and Strengthening the Unions Today. Speaker: Ryan Scott, Young Socialists. Fri., July 22, 7:30 p.m. *5907 Penn Ave. Room 225. Tel: (412) 365-1090.*

TEXAS

Houston

Support Workers Struggles to Organize and Extend Union Power. Speaker: Anthony Dutrow, SWP candidate for mayor. Fri., July 22, 7:30 p.m. *4800 W. 34 St., Suite C-51A. Tel: 713-869-6550.*

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Iran: Behind the Recent Elections. Speaker: Felicity Coggan, Communist League. Fri., July 22, 7 p.m. Donation: $3. *7 Mason Ave., Oahuhu. Tel: (09) 276-8885.*

Christchurch

Thirty Years since Victory of the Vietnamese People. Attend a fund-raising dinner for the Militant Fighting Fund at 4:30 p.m. Program at 7 p.m. *For more information: 03 365 6055.*

'Nouvelle Internationale' no.7 hot off the press; team takes magazine to workers, youth in Quebec

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE

TORONTO—Issue no. 7 of the French-language Marxist magazine *Nouvelle Internationale* is off the press. It features "Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun," the political report by Socialist Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes adopted by the party's 2002 convention, as well as the political resolution "Their Transformation and Ours," adopted by its June 2005 convention. As an appendix it reprints two reports from 1921 by Bolshevik leaders V.I. Lenin and Leon Trotsky on "Crisis, Boom, and Revolution."

This issue is the translation of the English-language *New International* no. 12, which, as the issue's introduction explains, "analyzes the sharpening interimperialist conflicts fueled both by the opening stages of a world depression and by the most far-reaching shift in Washington's military policy and organization since its preparations in the late 1930s to transform the nearly decade-long war in Asia and the European war of 1939–41 into a world war."

The issue also "weighs the importance of the beginning political transformation of militant workers who, impelled by these momentous changes, are taking the lead to reach for, organize, and use *union power*." These items have been translated into Spanish in issue no. 6 of *Nueva Internacional*, as well.

In an initial two-day trip to Montreal, a team of communist workers from Toronto sold 11 copies of the new issue to individuals who had taken advantage of a special prepublication offer for *Nouvelle Internationale* no. 7 and the forthcoming no. 8, scheduled to be printed in time for the World Festival of Youth and Students in Caracas, Venezuela, which opens August 7.

The team sold three more sets to young subscribers to the *Militant*. One, Véronique Clermont, was active in the recent six-week strike by Quebec students against cuts to the grant system. Clermont took advantage of the special offer after a discussion on the way forward for Quebec independence and reading the section in the magazine describing the communist movement's response to the September 11 events under the heading, "No fear of the rulers."

'New International' campaign

With six weeks remaining in the campaign to sell the two new issues of *New International* and their Spanish and French counterparts, campaigners have sold 2,176 copies. We are more than a week behind where we need to be to reach the goal of 3,350 by August 22.

A stepped-up week-to-week effort in every city is needed to make this goal.

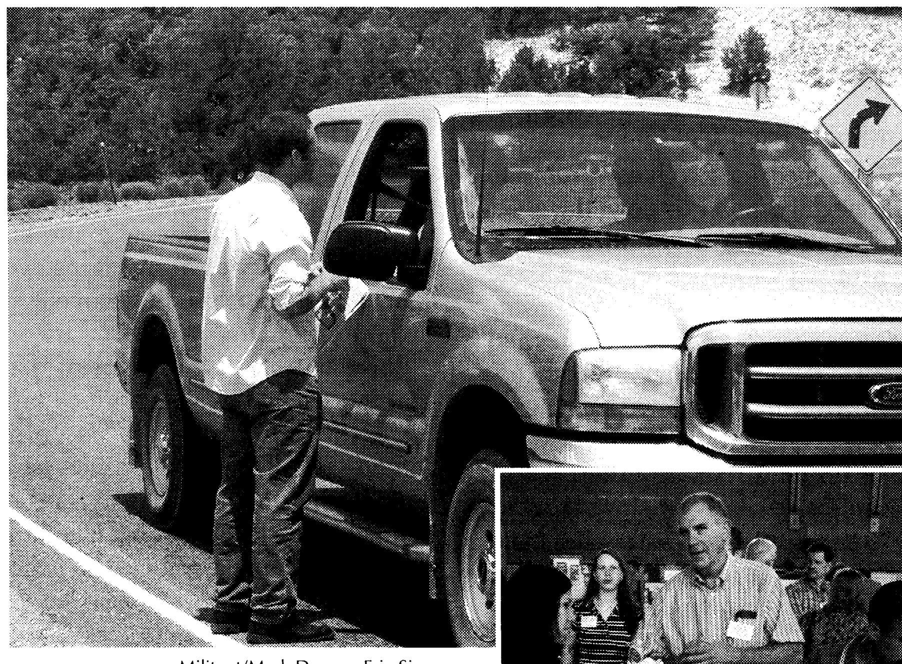
Please send in weekly progress reports by Tuesday morning to the *Militant*. Include short reports and photos for this column.

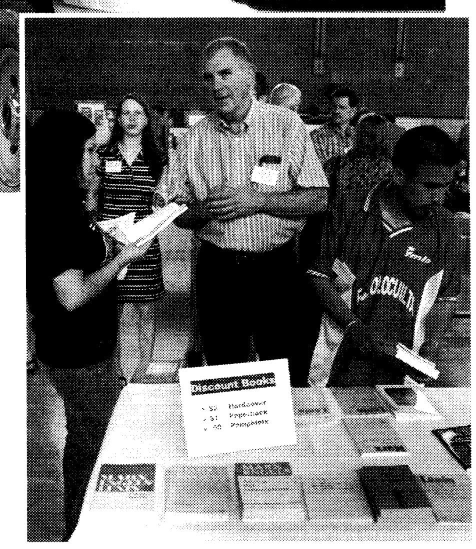


Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	**170**	**164**	**96%**
Edinburgh	**50**	**48**	**96%**
UK total	**220**	**212**	**96%**
CANADA	**150**	**139**	**93%**
NEW ZEALAND			
Auckland	**55**	**47**	**85%**
Christchurch	**20**	**15**	**75%**
N.Z. total	**75**	**62**	**83%**
SWEDEN	40	28	70%
UNITED STATES			
Chicago	**115**	**98**	**85%**
Washington	**95**	**80**	**84%**
Houston	**105**	**79**	**75%**
Philadelphia	**100**	**75**	**75%**
Miami	**110**	**82**	**75%**
Twin Cities	**140**	**103**	**74%**
Atlanta	**115**	**84**	**73%**
Seattle	**130**	**93**	**72%**
Los Angeles	225	154	68%
New York	325	219	67%
San Francisco	205	136	66%
Newark	125	75	60%
Birmingham	112	66	59%
Boston	120	69	58%
Des Moines	105	60	57%
Price, UT	61	33	54%
Pittsburgh	100	54	54%
Salt Lake City	15	5	33%
U.S. total	2303	1565	68%
AUSTRALIA	60	38	63%
ICELAND	32	17	53%
World Youth Festival	250	0	0%
pathfinderpress.com	200	115	58%
Int'l totals	3330	2176	65%
Goals/Should be	**3350**	**2393**	**71%**

Acting on SWP convention decisions

Socialists campaign among working people resisting bosses' attacks





Militant/Mark Downs, Eric Simpson

Above, Seth Dellinger on 'Militant' sales team on road leading to Arch Minerals Sufco mine near Salina, Utah. Coming out of the June 9–11 convention of the Socialist Workers Party, party members and Young Socialists launched special sales efforts in the Western coalfields, the Midwest meatpacking plants, and Southern auto plants. Right, convention participants browse tables of revolutionary literature.

BY MICHAEL ITALIE

Members of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists are carrying out the decision of the party's June convention to organize summer teams to reach out to working people resisting the employers' offensive. Team members are getting the *Militant,* two new issues of *New International* magazine, and books and pamphlets into the hands of Western coal miners, meat packers in the Midwest, and auto workers in the South.

These workers are among those who have felt the brunt of the bosses' drive to slash wages, extend work hours, and speed up production at the expense of safety. The socialists campaigned among miners pressing their battle for United Mine Workers union recognition at the Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah, as well as other miners who are closely watching their example.

Selling the *Militant* at mine portals, they also spoke with coal truck haulers. Team member Betsy Farley reports that a number were pro-union and were glad meet other union backers, and bought the *Militant.*

Two team members, retired longshore workers from Los Angeles and Seattle, joined a June 29 picket line organized by the Co-Op miners at the mine entrance. The next day the socialist campaigners participated in a meeting in Salt Lake City organized by Jobs with Justice that featured a Co-Op miner and other workers involved in union-organizing struggles.

In northeast Arizona they met workers at the Black Mesa mine, who face the closing of the Peabody mine, and working people on the Navajo Nation fighting the deadly consequences of uranium mining. Twenty-four miners from the Black Mesa and Kayenta mines bought the *Militant.*

A health-care worker in Kayenta responded to the explanation in *New International* no. 13 about the need to back efforts to expand electrification in the semicolonial world. On the Navajo Nation itself, many working people lack electricity. She said she had fought for years to gain electrical access for her home without success. Her home is on Peabody property and the company has blocked the Navajo Nation from running a power line to her house.

Young socialists have participated in these regional teams and in the petitioning efforts to put Socialist Workers candidates on the ballot in several cities, as they prepare to go with a U.S. delegation to Caracas, Venezuela, for the August World Festival of Youth and Students, to join in discussions and debates on fighting imperialism around the world.

Commenting on his discussions with coal miners in Utah and Arizona, Young Socialist Joe Kapsner, 19, said, "The miners I met were very union-conscious." He noted that some remembered the *Militant* from previous teams, and many wanted to read it to learn about the Co-Op miners' fight.

Meat packers in Minnesota

Another team campaigned at a number of packing plants in Minnesota where workers have engaged in organizing struggles. At some, workers have won representation by the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW). At others, workers are discussing how to advance their fight in spite of setbacks in union representation elections.

Workers at Long Prairie Packing in Long Prairie, Minnesota, told team members that 80 workers had staged a work stoppage in the plant cafeteria a few months earlier against brutal conditions they face. They said about two dozen workers continued the action despite company threats. UFCW Local 789 organizes workers at that plant and at Dakota Premium Foods in South St. Paul, where workers waged a successful unionization battle a few years ago.

In the last week of July a team will go to towns in Alabama and other southern states where auto companies have built plants with the aim of keeping them nonunion and busting the United Auto Workers. The conditions workers face there are sowing the seeds of resistance.

Conference wind-up

Organizing the summer campaigning was a central focus of the public wind-up of the national conference the evening of June 10. Plans for the U.S. teams got a boost from the talk by Angelica Worth, who described recent trips by Communist League members in New Zealand to report on a struggle by coal miners there and introduce them to the *Militant* and other socialist literature.

The meeting was chaired by Arrin Hawkins and Norton Sandler. Sandler introduced the party's National Committee chosen by delegates to the convention, which had adjourned that afternoon. Regular members of the National Committee include Jack Barnes, Joel Britton, Róger Calero, Steve Clark, Bill Estrada, James Harris, Alyson Kennedy, Martín Koppel, Argiris Malapanis, Sam Manuel, Doug Nelson, Olympia Newton, Paul Pederson, Jacob Perasso, Norton Sandler, Brian Taylor, and Mary-Alice Waters. Alternate members of the NC include Dennis Richter, Paul Mailhot, Maggie Trowe, Ved Dookhun, Betsy Farley, Arrin Hawkins, Angel Lariscy, Romina Green, and Karl Butts.

Other speakers included Martín Koppel, the SWP candidate for mayor of New York; Karl Butts, a farmer in the Tampa, Florida, area who is moving to Birmingham; Jim Altenberg from San Francisco, a member of the Printing Project Steering Committee; and Paul Mailhot from Salt Lake City, who described the broadening support for the Militant Fighting Fund (see page 6) and explained its goal of raising $60,000 by August 15.

Socialists launch New York ballot drive

Continued from front page

signatures, the three-person team met six people who bought the *Militant*, and several others picked up books on working-class politics.

At the center of the Socialist Workers campaign is support to workers' struggles to organize unions and to use and extend union power to defend working people from the capitalist rulers' assaults.

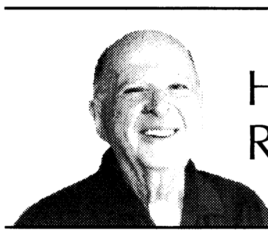
On July 10 a team including Dan Fein visited the picket line of airplane fuelers at Kennedy airport to back their fight. Some 300 members of Teamsters Local 553 are on strike against Allied Aviation, which is demanding big hikes in health insurance costs while offering miserly in wage and pension increases.

Strikers have had to deal with Port Authority cops, who, seizing on the July 7 London bombings, forced them in the name of "security" to move their pickets from their original site to a less visible location.

"Washington aids the bosses with its 'antiterrorist' campaign, trying to get workers to subordinate their fights to patriotic appeals," Fein said. "The fact unionists are standing together against the company's demands sets a good example to other workers."

Three classes, each at 7:00 p.m., are being organized at the campaign headquarters (see directory on page 8). One will be held Friday, July 15, on "1938–45: The Political Foundations of the Socialist Workers Party," given by Dave Prince. On Wednesday, July 20, Debbie Lazar will present a class based on the pamphlet *The Revolutionary Party* by James P. Cannon. On Friday, July 22, Ma'mud Shirvani will give a class on "Historical Trends that Strengthen Working-Class Solidarity and the Declining Hold of Religious Obscurantism."

GREAT SOCIETY



Harry Ring

The drop-dead program—Missouri is slashing Medicaid for those with low incomes. For example, if a single mom with two children earns more than $350 a month, the kids will be denied medical coverage. An anticipated 24,000 will be cut off. Adults will lose dental care and the disabled will be denied crutches and other aids.

He'll mix polar opposites?—Antonio Villaraigosa, the new mayor of Los Angeles, is a cheerful promise-maker. He declares: "I will be a mayor for all the people." Like, bosses and workers, and landlords and tenants?

The scourge of imperialism—A group of Puerto Rican protesters gathered in front of the governor's mansion demanding action against the high rate of cancer on that nation's island of Vieques. The U.S. Navy used Vieques for bombing exercises.

Stubborn protests finally drove the Navy out, but the legacy of cancer remains. A survey shows that the cancer rate in Vieques is 50 percent higher than it is throughout Puerto Rico.

Homeland defense at work—In Summit, New Jersey, homeless Richard Kreimer is suing the city for throwing him out of a train station.

In defense, city officials cited the Patriot Act, which speaks of "attacks and other violence against mass transportation." A Justice Dept. spokesperson said the Summit officials were "overreaching."

Besides, it's only kids—The Food and Drug Administration is checking out inadequate warning labels on Concerta and other medications used mainly for children afflicted with attention deficit disorder and hyperactivity. The FDA was prompted to make this move by reports of hallucinations, suicidal thoughts, psychotic behavior, and aggression. Concerta says it already has label warnings of psychiatric side effects. The company says the symptoms aren't that serious and the drug may only aggravate existing problems.

And lunkheads?—Gov. Romney of Massachusetts proposes that everyone be required to buy health insurance or pay a penalty. If you own a car, he notes, you have to buy insurance. When you buy a home, insurance is required to get a mortgage. So why not the same requirement for health coverage? We don't want to tax the governor's brain, but there are two or three people in this wonderful society who can't afford a home or a car—or health insurance.

Greece: Bank workers protest gov't pension cuts

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN AND NATASHA TERLEXIS

ATHENS, Greece—Bank workers have been conducting a series of strikes and protest actions here over the past month against moves by the government to cut pension benefits.

The Greek parliament approved a bill June 30 put forth by the New Democracy government of Constantinos Karamanlis to "restructure" bank workers' pension funds. About 300 striking bank workers, blowing whistles, marched to the parliament building in Athens while legislators were debating the bill.

This was the latest in a series of actions by the unions of bank workers in opposition to the bill. They were joined by thousands of other workers on June 24 when the General Confederation of Workers of Greece called for a 24-hour strike in defense of pensions.

"The employers and the government want to reduce the amount received when you retire and they want to increase the number of years you must work for full entitlement," explained striking bank worker Iannis Petropoulos, who is a member of the Union of Employees at the Attiki Bank. "The new measures will in effect reduce payments and benefits by 40 percent for future pensioners and increase the amount of years you need to work by seven for men and 15 years for women, for a full pension," he stated.

"The government bill would do away with the separate bank workers fund and unite it with the inferior state social security fund [IKA]. Workers hired after 1993 would be affected," explained a woman striker near retirement from Emporiki Bank who did not want to be identified. "Right now a woman worker can take early retirement at 840 euros a month [1 euro = US$1.19]. With IKA it is 400 a month. You see, the bankers make lots of money that way," she added.

"This is just the beginning of their attacks. Other public and private sector workers will be next with their pensions and other benefits on the block," said Petropoulos.

The government has announced that discussions must begin on an overhaul of the social security system. It has in fact presented the passage of this measure that "equalizes" pensions downward as a first step in an overall "reform" of the social security system.

Meanwhile the OTOE (Federation of Bank Employees) announced June 29 a suspension of its strike actions, but left open the option of "organizing protest action at every bank that attempts to join the new unified auxiliary pension fund," reported the July 1 *Athens Times.*



Militant/Georges Mehrabian

Striking bank workers in Athens, Greece, in a march heading to the parliament on June 30 against government assaults on their pension funds.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

25 CENTS
THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

July 25, 1980

MIAMI—The Black community here erupted in anger July 15 when hundreds of Dade County cops occupied the Liberty City area.

At about 3:30 p.m. two cops chased several Black youths into the James E. Scott Housing Project. The youths were accused of trying to rob a motorist. When the cops ran into the project with guns drawn, an angry crowd began throwing rocks and bottles.

The cops called in reinforcements armed with shotguns, pistols, billy clubs, and tear gas. Within ninety minutes they cordoned off a nine-square-mile area. Bus service was suspended.

By evening, Coconut Grove, another Black area of the city where angry crowds threw rocks at cops, was also barricaded.

Hundreds of Blacks lined Northwest Twenty-second Avenue until late in the night. Police cars sped down the street shooting tear-gas canisters.

One of the men said, "We didn't need an excuse. What we on the street understand is that McDuffie [a Black man beaten to death by cops, a murder that sparked a rebellion in the Black community in May] wasn't the last one."

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

July 25, 1955

On the eve of the Geneva meeting of the Big Four, martial law was declared in Casablanca as civil war flared up once again. The fighting has temporarily subsided, but all the tensions that brought conflict remain. The oppressed colonial people of Morocco, speaking with the same voice as millions of people in Asia, Africa, and South America, have served notice that they will not tolerate diplomatic deals that leave them enslaved.

The new outburst of violence began on July 14 when a bomb of unknown origin exploded near a café, killing seven Europeans. The next day, French colonialists began a wave of terror and murder. A French mob lynched four Moroccans and invaded the old medina, the Arab section of the city, to burn, loot and kill.

The French government in Paris, hoping to salvage its colonial possessions in North Africa in spite of the liberation movement, recently sent Gilbert Grandval to the Moroccan protectorate, to seek conciliation through promises and meager concessions. But the French colonialists in Morocco, as in Tunisia and Algeria, refuse to yield an inch. They want their privileges left intact.

THE MILITANT
Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

July 26, 1930

Five workers arrested last week in Scranton [Pennsylvania] and charged with sedition are facing 20 years in prison. They were jailed when the anthracite mine owners and their flunkies in political office feared that a strike of 1,200 members of the United Mine Workers Union for equalization of work would develop into a militant struggle led by the National Miners Union. The strike however, was short-lived as the Lewis-Boylan machine ordered the men to return to work.

The International Labor Defense which is conducting the defense of the five workers must develop a broad united front movement for their liberation. Not only the N.M.U. locals which are very weak, but the rank and file of the U.M.W. must be appealed to and asked to participate in the campaign. This is an issue that can be used to strengthen the Left wing movement in the anthracite region if properly handled.

Copper miners strike against concessions

BY DEAN HAZLEWOOD
AND DIANA NEWBERRY

HAYDEN, Arizona—"All we want is for them to be fair. But we are prepared and I feel the public is on our side," said Ernest Bustamante, as he walked the picket line at the Hayden smelter, 60 miles north of Tucson. Bustamante is one of 1,500 workers on strike against Asarco, the second largest U.S. copper producer, at four sites in Arizona and one in Amarillo, Texas. Picket lines here are up 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Production workers at the mine, members of United Steelworkers Local 5252, walked out July 1, the day after their contract expired. Unionists from USW locals 915, 886, and 937, as well as locals of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and the Operating Engineers are also on strike. They had been working for a year without a contract.

The company is demanding a freeze on wages and pension contributions in a new contract. Under the expired pact most workers were making around $17 to $18 per hour. ASARCO also wants to extend shifts from the present 8 hours to 12 hours, with no overtime pay. They also are demanding changes in the attendance policy and drug testing rules to strengthen the company's hand. They want to get rid of all benefits for new hires. Instead of a pension plan for them, they want to institute a private 401(k) investment scheme.

The bosses are trying to run the struck mines with supervisory personnel working 12-hour shifts. Greg Ramirez, a union steward for USW Local 915 at the mine, noted that the company has brought in 50 supervisors from the struck facility at Amarillo to work with the mine bosses. "We know it's just killing them," he said.



Militant/Diana Newberry

Copper miners, members of United Steelworkers Local 5252, on strike against Asarco's Ray Mine near Kearny, Arizona, July 10.

Union representatives are visiting sister unions at other ASARCO-owned operations in Mexico and Peru. "We have to take this fight global," stated Robert Manriquez, president of USW Local 5252. "The company has a nerve that runs from their wallet up through their neck. We must internationalize the strike."

The striking unionists have also been winning solidarity throughout the area. Teamster drivers for ABF Freight are refusing to cross the picket lines. A number of truckers passing by honk their horns and raise their fists in solidarity. A food bank has been set up, and a "Care Fair" to aid the strikers is planned for later this month at Central Arizona College.

Peabody may shut down Arizona mine

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

PRICE, Utah—Union contracts at Peabody Coal's Black Mesa and Kayenta mines expire September 1. Although contract negotiations have not begun, the actions of the mine owners and the large utility company that purchases much of the coal from those mines may result in the 240 workers at Black Mesa being thrown out of work.

Miners at Black Mesa are members of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 1620. Peabody also owns the nearby Kayenta mine, organized by UMWA Local 1924. The two surface mines are on land belonging to the Navajo Nation and Hopi tribe in northeast Arizona, and employ mostly Navajo and Hopi workers.

Coal from the Black Mesa mine is pulverized and mixed with water to form a slurry that travels through a 273-mile pipeline to the Mohave generating station in Laughlin, Nevada. The Kayenta mine transports coal 85 miles on an electric railroad to the Navajo power plant near Page, Arizona.

Southern California Edison, majority owner of the Mohave station, announced that the coal-fired power plant would be shut down December 31. It said a shutdown of three to four years is "probable."

The plant closure will affect not only the miners but also the 50 workers at the UMWA-organized Black Mesa Pipeline Co. and the 325 power plant workers.

Built in 1971, the Mohave station provides electricity for more than a million homes and business, mostly in Southern California. The company has never installed equipment for removing sulfur dioxide and other pollutants from the plant's emissions.

In December 1999 a federal court issued a consent decree ordering Southern Edison to sharply reduce polluting emissions at the plant after several environmental groups filed a lawsuit against it. Although the bosses agreed to install pollution control scrubbers and other equipment by the end of 2005, they have taken no action.

The utility says it will cost $1.1 billion to install the air pollution equipment and to enlarge and replace the slurry pipeline.

"Southern California Edison has stalled," Marie Justice, president of UMWA Local 1620, said in a telephone interview. "This is to the detriment of the Navajo Nation and the Hopi tribe. We are talking about more unemployment, where there is already 50 percent unemployment on the Navajo Nation and 70 percent in the Hopi tribe. This would be devastating to the tribes."

Peabody uses 3.3 million gallons of water per day, which it draws from an aquifer running below the coal mines. The aquifer is the sole source of drinking water for the Hopi and Navajo communities in the area. Negotiations are under way between Peabody and the Navajo Nation and Hopi tribes for a contract that will allow the coal slurry to continue by using water from a different aquifer with lower-quality water.

Unionists back Militant Fighting Fund

C.W. Mining, owners of the Co-Op coal mine in Huntington, Utah, has filed a harassment lawsuit targeting union organizations and individuals involved in or supporting the fight of the workers there to organize into the United Mine Workers of America. The charges include unfair labor practices and defamation. Among those being sued for defaming C.W. Mining are three newspapers—the *Militant*, and Salt Lake City's main dailies, the *Tribune* and *Deseret Morning News*—that have covered the union struggle at the mine.

The Militant Fighting Fund was launched to help defend the *Militant*, a prominent target of this legal assault because of its record of backing and reporting the truth about the miners' battle for a union. Below are reports on how support is building. Endorsements and contributions to the Militant Fighting Fund $60,000 campaign can be sent to P.O. Box 520994, Salt Lake City, Utah 84152.

*

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

LOS ANGELES—Ricardo Icaza, president of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770, is one of the newest endorsers of the Militant Fighting Fund here. The local sent a $100 check for the fund. UFCW Local 770 represents almost 30,000 workers at Albertsons, Ralphs, and Vons grocery stores in California. Alberto Valdivia, secretary-treasurer of the United Teachers of Los Angeles, sent a letter of support as well. Earlier this year Valdivia wrote an article in support of the fight at Co-Op in the union's newspaper, *United Teacher*.

Angela Sanbrano, executive director of the Central American Resource Center, wrote, "CARECEN stands together with those fighting this attempt to intimidate the workers and their supporters in the press. We urge the C.W. Mining Company to cease their action immediately." Sanbrano played a key role in the late 1980s in exposing the FBI's covert spying operation against the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador and other groups.

In opening his weekly KPFK 90.7 FM radio program on July 7, Jim Lafferty, host of the Lawyers Guild Radio Show, emphasized the "critical importance" of the Militant Fighting Fund's campaign to defeat the C.W. Mining harassment lawsuit. Lafferty's guest was Paul Mailhot, organizer of the Militant Fighting Fund in Salt Lake City.

*

BY STEVE WARSHELL

HOUSTON—Support has been won here among those who see the need for free speech and freedom of the press in support of the rights of working people. Sam Horvath, a member of the United Steelworkers Local 5702 negotiating committee at the Kaiser plant in Gramercy, Louisiana, added his name to the endorser list, as did Rev. Diana Dale and the Houston Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice; Duane Bradley, general manager of Pacifica radio station KPFT in Houston; Henry Cooper of the radio program "Proyecto Latinoamericano"; and Ray Hill, a gay rights activist and radio show host for "The Prison Show."

In Austin, the Prisoners Rights Support Network wrote, "We urge other groups and individuals to support the struggle of the Co-Op miners and to defend the First Amendment rights of the media, support groups, and individuals from being silenced for covering the workers' struggle and for speaking out against the harassment and intimidation by C.W. Mining."

The statement was signed by Raúl Salinas, a well-known leader of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee. He was also a prison cellmate of longtime Puerto Rican independence fighter Rafael Cancel Miranda.

More than $2,500 has already been pledged locally and $1,100 sent to support the work of the Militant Fighting Fund.

*

BY DAN FEIN

NEW YORK—The executive board of Laborers Union Local 79 in New York City voted at its June meeting to endorse the Militant Fighting Fund.

A few days before the executive board meeting, supporters of the labor defense campaign met with John Delgado, a staff member for the local who has been a strong supporter of the Co-Op coal miners' organizing battle. Delgado took literature about the lawsuit and helped secure the endorsement of the union's leadership. Local 79 has been prominent in organizing efforts among construction workers here.

U.S., Indian gov'ts sign 10-year military pact

BY PAUL PEDERSON

The Indian and U.S. governments signed a 10-year defense pact June 28, the first formal military accord between the two countries since Washington imposed sanctions on New Delhi following its 1998 nuclear tests.

The move is the latest registration of the success that Washington has had over the past several years in pulling the Indian government into its political orbit. Similar progress in transforming the Pakistani government into a staunch—even if unstable—U.S. ally over the same period has shifted the political map in the region decidedly in Washington's favor.

The new military pact notes that "the U.S.-India defense relationship has advanced in a short time to unprecedented levels of cooperation."

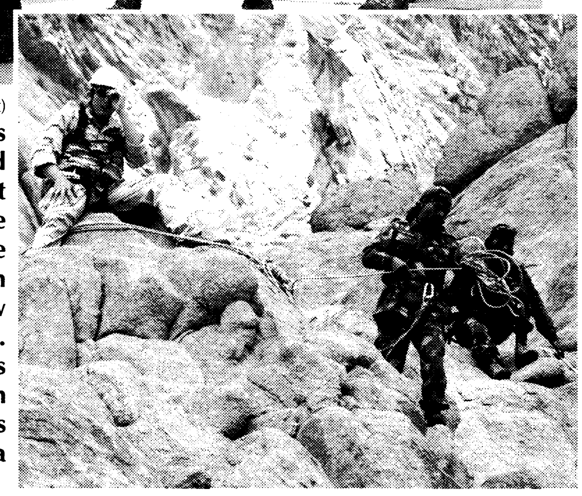
The agreement follows several other moves in this direction since 2001. This includes a number of joint U.S.-Indian military exercises, beginning with six major exercises in 2002 alone.

A close relationship with the Indian government gives Washington greater access to strategic sea routes from East Asia to the Middle East and North Africa and has provided it with an important bulwark against neighboring China. A key aspect of this is Indian collaboration with Washington on the extension of a missile defense shield aimed at China. Efforts to "expand collaboration relating to missile defense" are part of the new military accord.

While Moscow remains India's largest military supplier—a holdover from the Indian rulers' close military, economic, and political ties to the former Soviet Union—the U.S. government is loosening restrictions on trade and joint manufacturing of strategic weapons with New Delhi. In March, the Pentagon authorized a deal to sell F-16 fighter jets to the Pakistani military. Washington has made it clear that New Delhi, too, can replace its large air fleet of mainly Russian fighter aircraft with the U.S.-made F-16s or F-18s.

Washington's ability to tie the Indian and Pakistani governments more closely into its foreign policy objectives has also led to steps by the U.S. rulers to deescalate the decades-old conflict between the two nuclear-armed states over Kashmir.





Getty Images/Sondeep Shankar, STR (inset)

Above, U.S. Army Special Forces and Indian paratroopers board aircraft in May 2002 for first joint military exercise between the two nations in seven years. Since that time, military collaboration between Washington and New Delhi has greatly expanded. Right, U.S. Special Forces carry out joint exercises with Indian soldiers along India's mountainous border with China in September 2003.

Nuclear power issue

Indian defense minister Pranab Mukherjee was in Washington in late June to sign the accord. During his visit he met with his U.S. counterpart, Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and Vice President Richard Cheney.

During his visit, Mukherjee asked Washington to drop its sanctions on trade in nuclear technology with India. In a June 27 presentation at the Carnegie Endowment in the U.S. capital he explained that India imports 70 percent of its energy supplies. That figure may rise to as high as 85 percent in the next two decades. According to World Bank figures, half of the 1.1 billion people living in India have no access to electricity.

"If India is to realize its economic potential, India needs alternative sources of energy," Mukherjee said. "Foremost among those available is nuclear energy. India has indigenously developed technologies for nuclear energy. But...India faces serious impediments of access to materials and components."

Asylum seekers in Iceland fight for residence permit

BY ÓLÖF ANDRA PROPPÉ

REYKJAVÍK, Iceland—"When you get here they take your picture and fingerprints. Then you hear nothing from the authorities until the police arrive without notice to deport you," said Soltani Mohamed Reba, a native of Algeria. He was among nine asylum seekers who had protested their conditions and treatment by Icelandic authorities in front of the town hall in Reykjanesbær on June 24.

Lika Korinteli and Dima Kaxiani, from the former Soviet republic of Georgia, said that Dima's brother had been picked up by the police and deported to Germany despite an arm injury.

The authorities said that when in Germany he could appeal the decision of the Icelandic Directorate of Immigration. "Why couldn't he stay here and appeal?" they asked.

Iceland, along with 14 other countries in Europe, is a signer of the Schengen Treaty, an agreement on joint border controls and police collaboration. The European Union's Dublin Regulation requires asylum seekers to submit their application in the first Schengen country they arrive in. If they request asylum in a third country, authorities there may send them back to the first Schengen country without examining their application. Because Iceland is usually not the first country a refugee arrives in, the system works well for the Icelandic rulers.

Some of the asylum seekers have been waiting up to 10 months for a decision of the Directorate of Immigration. Haydar Majed Mahdi said the worst part was having nothing to do. "We want to work. Ten months is too long to do nothing but talk to each other, eat, and sleep." Mahdi left Iraq after his parents were killed in an explosion two years ago.

Riaz Ahmed Khan, from Afghanistan, told Sjónvarpid (the Icelandic National Broadcasting Service) that some of them wanted to protest in Reykjavík, the capital. "A one-way ticket is 850 kronur (US$13). Each week they give us 2,000 kronur. A round-trip ticket is almost 1,700 kronur. What would be left?"

Most asylum seekers stay at Fit Hostel in Reykjanesbær, a town close to the international airport and a 45-minute drive from Reykjavík. Twenty-three reportedly are now waiting for their applications to be examined. Thirty have so far sought asylum this year.

"This country should be marked a 'no-go' area on the map," one asylum seeker said. The only time a person has been granted political asylum in Iceland was in 2000—leaving aside former chess champion Bobby Fischer, who was given full citizenship last March in a diplomatic move by Reykjavík.

The government has periodically chosen individuals from particular countries to grant refugee status and residence and work permits. From 1956 to 1991, 204 people entered Iceland in this way. For the seven-year period between 1996 and 2003, 216 were granted these permits—141 from the Krajina region in Yugoslavia, and 75 from Kosova.

In recent years some of those seeking asylum have been granted a residence permit on humanitarian grounds, but statistics show that number to be declining at the same time as the number of those seeking asylum has shot up. In 1998, 13 applicants were granted a residence permit out of 24, as opposed to 6 of 117 in 2002. In 2004, 76 applied, but so far none of these has been granted a residence permit on humanitarian grounds.

Miners in New Zealand protest suspensions



Militant/Terry Coggan

Coal miners picket Rotowaru surface mine in New Zealand July 9

Since being locked out July 1, miners and maintenance workers have been picketing Solid Energy's Huntly East and Rotowaro mines in the Waikato coalfield in New Zealand's North Island.

Some 170 underground and surface miners, members of the Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union, were suspended after refusing to load out coal to protest the breakdown of contract negotiations. Another 35 workers were suspended at the Ngakawau coal handling plant near the Stockton mine in the South Island.

Solid Energy, the government-owned coal monopoly, wants to impose a three-year contract with a total wage increase of 9 percent. The union is seeking a two-year contract with annual raises of 5 percent.

—TERRY COGGAN

Imperialist war and the making of an internationalist

Below is an excerpt from James P. Cannon: The Internationalist, *one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for July. Cannon was a member of the Industrial Workers of the World and the early Socialist Party. He was a founder and leader of the Communist Party in the United States following the October 1917 Russian Revolution. He was expelled from the CP in 1928 for supporting Leon Trotsky's fight to continue V.I. Lenin's revolutionary course. Cannon was national secretary and then national chairman of the Socialist Workers Party until his death in 1974. Copyright © 1980 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JOSEPH HANSEN

In 1914, for the first time in history, a world war broke out. Still worse, the international socialist movement, which had even anticipated the event and warned that it would be met with revolution, fell to pieces. The socialist parties on the two sides came out for defense of the fatherland, that is, in support of their own capitalist classes. For many socialists everything seemed lost. Even if socialist theory remained valid, it had broken down in practice.



An opponent of the first world imperialist slaughter, Cannon and 17 other leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and the Minneapolis Teamsters union were jailed for opposing Washington's role in World War II. At his first public talk after release from prison, Cannon (above) speaks on May 1, 1945, in New York.

In the United States, the right-wing leaders of the Socialist Party took the side of the Allies. When Woodrow Wilson, who had been reelected president on the slogan, "He kept us out of war," decided to join the bloody but profitable conflict and sent the doughboys to die on foreign battlefields, the right-wing socialists climbed onto the bandwagon, where they made spectacles of themselves selling war bonds.

The left wing of the Socialist Party, to which Jim naturally belonged, was incapable of working out an effective line of opposition to the war. The best it could come up with was resistance to the draft. It was left up to the young men in the Socialist Party to declare themselves as conscientious objectors on an individual basis.

This line did not arouse Jim's enthusiasm. In fact, he found it distasteful. Nevertheless, because nothing better was proposed, he became a conscientious objector. Later he was to describe what a political blunder this course represented from the socialist point of view. Among other things, the party should have sought to place its members inside the armed forces where, day in and day out, they could have explained their opposition to the war to an audience that was bound to become more and more receptive to the message.

Jim's judgment in this is quite correct. Nonetheless it is worth noting that in applying this line, Jim's intent was clearly internationalist. Conscientious objection, while ineffective, represented opposition to imperialist war—opposition, moreover, to his own ruling class and its government during the war itself.

Russian Revolution intervenes

Before 1917, like other militants in the left wing of the Socialist Party who were becoming known for their leadership capacities, Jim puzzled over what had happened to the socialist movement because of the war. Without really being aware of it, he was moving toward the question of the politics of the socialist movement.

The Russian revolution, culminating in the triumph of the Bolsheviks in November 1917, altered the entire situation. The debacle in the international socialist movement caused by the betrayals of the parties belonging to the Second International appeared to have been overcome at one stroke. The world revolution had scored a decisive advance. For the first time since the Paris Commune in 1871, revolutionary socialists had won governmental power. They had proved in practice the validity of socialist theory.

Today, almost sixty years after that great event, it is difficult to visualize the enthusiasm it created among the masses on a world scale including inside the United States. Here it opened up a completely new perspective. Figures like Cannon responded as if they had been given a new lease on life. They set themselves two main tasks. First, to support the Bolsheviks with every means at their command. Second, to learn how the Bolsheviks achieved their victory so as to be able to apply those lessons to the United States.

This work proceeded along factional lines inside the Socialist Party. The adherents of the Bolsheviks set out to organize a movement capable of applying the methods of the Russians in the United States. They did this even while they studied everything they could obtain elucidating those methods. This material was not abundant because of the language problem and the conditions of the times. Consequently gaps in knowledge, ill-digested concepts, and outright misunderstandings were rather widespread.

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EDITORIAL

‘Antiterrorism’ is UK rulers’ banner, anti–working people is their course

We are using the editorial space this week to reprint a statement released July 12 by the Communist League in the United Kingdom.

Oppose ID cards and other “anti-terror” curbs on rights!

Hands off Iran, North Korea! UK and all imperialist troops out of Iraq, Afghanistan, Ireland, Sierra Leone!

With imperious and imperial appeals to defend “our” country, “our” democracy, “British” values, and “our” way of life, the government has responded to the 7 July London bombings by deepening its “war on terrorism.” This war, however, is not directed primarily against “terrorists.” Abroad the targets are any governments in the colonial world that stand in the way of the imperialist rulers as they seek to defend their increasingly crisis-ridden world order. At home, as the employers anticipate resistance to assaults on living standards, job conditions, and the social wage, they step up probes to restrict the political rights of the working class to organise and act.

The UK government has energetically participated in the invasions and occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan, including the current campaign to “Iraq-ise” the post–Saddam Hussein regime. On the pretext of “the hunt for Bin Laden,” it is sending special forces to Afghanistan’s southeast and the Pakistani border in order to consolidate a new regional set-up anchored in greater imperialist domination of Pakistan. London spearheaded the joint US-UK drive against Libya, successfully threatening Tripoli with the “Iraq treatment” if it didn’t get into line. Today it is taking a leading place in the threats against Iran. Some of these states stand accused by imperialism of organizing terrorist cells in other countries. Each has demonstrated that it has, or is on the way to developing, weapons (conventional or nuclear) and delivery systems that could deter imperialism’s use of its military might.

This, not climate change or ending poverty in Africa, is the foreign policy course of the British rulers, despite what they trumpeted at the G-8 summit. What they have in store for the African continent is not ending poverty but deepened capitalist penetration, combined with military force when necessary to back up this penetration. This has been shown by the UK’s dispatch of troops to Sierra Leone; their collaboration with the regime in Nigeria; their pressure on South Africa over Zimbabwe; and the involvement of well-placed ruling-class figures in the aborted coup in Equatorial Guinea.

This foreign policy course is the extension of their war against working people in the UK, where the deepening economic crisis compels them to go after living and job conditions, pensions, and benefits secured over decades of struggle. Recognising they will meet growing resistance as they continue on this course, the British rulers are systematically strengthening their hand—to equip themselves for battles they know are coming. The fighting capacity of working people and of their trade unions, not “terrorists,” is the rulers’ chief concern. They use events like 7/7 to further strengthen measures against all working people. Anti-terrorism may be the banner, but anti-working people is the course. Witness farmers protesting rising fuel prices threatened with action under the Terrorism Act.

The government has enacted three new Terrorism Acts since 2000. It has recruited thousands more cops and members of the secret services. It has enlisted the army to jointly patrol with the police in a number of “trial” areas. It has led EU moves to strengthen international spying. And it has introduced a compulsory ID card bill. The labour movement and all democratic-minded people should speak out against each and every such curb on rights.

‘National unity against terror’

Following the bombings, the government has launched a campaign for national unity against “barbaric acts.” It has announced a two-minutes silence for 14 July; a Trafalgar Square vigil has been called for the same day. Such patriotic appeals are aimed at politically hitching workers and farmers to the interests and course of the exploiters. They are trying to convince working people to accept cuts in *our* living standards in order to turn around the crisis of *their* profit rates. But *we* don’t share a common “way of life” with *them*. Working people need to reject such nationalistic demagogy and turn toward strengthening our solidarity in action and using our unions to resist the bosses’ attacks.

The government has found willing accomplices. The Trades Union Congress is building support for the two-minutes silence and has announced its intention to call a demonstration against “terrorism.” The Rail, Maritime and Transport union and its general secretary Bob Crow have called for the police or army to provide enhanced security on the Tube. The Muslim Council of Britain has called for Muslims to “unite in helping the police.”

London mayor Ken Livingstone cited bloody-handed imperialist war dog Winston Churchill as his authority in condemning what he called “criminal mass murder.” Singing Westminster’s song sheet, Livingstone called on people to “come forward” with information for the police, joining the “war against terror.”

Two weeks ago, the left joined government-backed Make Poverty History marches. Today it is marching to the government’s tune “against terrorism.”

Working-class alternative

The Communist League fights for working-class clarity and unity in action in face of the bosses’ drive for “national unity,” a unity that can only be imperialist in character. Within hours of the bombing, League members were on the streets, selling *The Militant* newspaper and *New International* magazine, with signs demanding “UK and all imperialist troops out of Iraq, Afghanistan, Ireland and Sierra Leone” and “Oppose ID cards and other ‘anti-terror’ curbs on rights!”

The communist campaigners explained that whoever may have carried out the London bombings—and the resulting deaths and injuries—these actions have nothing to do with mobilising working people and their allies to defeat capitalist exploitation and imperialist oppression.

Wars of conquest, economic dislocation and ruin of exploited producers, and assaults on human dignity at home and abroad—all this will continue until working people in the United Kingdom take power out of the hands of the capitalist ruling class and establish a workers and farmers government.

United Kingdom

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the London Underground’s closed-circuit surveillance system and identified by physical evidence at the sites.

Press commentary has focused on the fact that all of the accused are British citizens, at least three of them from Leeds, West Yorkshire. Blair remarked in Parliament on “the shock of knowing that those that have perpetrated this were actually born and brought up in this country.” Reportedly, three are of Pakistani ancestry and the fourth is Jamaican-born.

‘National unity’ campaign

Conservative Party leader Michael Howard rallied behind the Labour Party prime minister, saying the “country is completely united” in the effort to “defeat terrorism.”

The British rulers used a July 10 commemoration of 60 years since the end of World War II to promote the “national unity” campaign. Speaking at the memorial, the Queen said the “war generation” had set an example to be turned to in the “present difficult days.”

“London will not be divided,” proclaimed the city’s mayor, Kenneth Livingstone, who quoted wartime words by Winston Churchill and was praised by the big-business media from London to New York.

Livingstone, who rose to prominence as a leader of the “Labour Party left,” called on people in the capital to make a success of a nationwide two-minute silence on July 14 and called a mass vigil in Trafalgar Square later in the day. The Trades Union Congress has appealed for support for both events.

Increased police powers

On the evening of July 9, the police evacuated 20,000 people from the center of Birmingham, the country’s second-largest city. They sealed off entry and exit from the ring road and blew up four “suspect packages,” all of which turned out to be harmless.

The British government has stepped up moves to curb rights and strengthen cop and spying agencies. Blair told parliament July 13 that the cabinet would speed up a new raft of “antiterrorism” legislation. One measure being touted is to outlaw “condoning or glorifying of terrorism,” according to the daily *Scotsman*.

The government confirmed it would be going ahead with a new Terrorism Act in the spring of next year—the fourth such law it will have enacted since 2000. Plans include establishing a Homeland Security department to combine all “antiterrorism agencies.” The laws already enacted allow police to detain individuals for a week without charges and to slap “control orders,” involving either house arrest or electronic tagging, on people deemed “suspects” but who cannot be charged because of lack of evidence.

The British government has also begun joint patrols of army troops and police in several “trial” areas.

Another recent move that has gained momentum is a bill to establish a mandatory national ID card.

Home Secretary Charles Clark convened a meeting of the European Union’s Justice and Home Affairs Council to press for telecommunication companies to retain all private phone and e-mail records for inspection by cops. Chancellor Gordon Brown has demanded the EU immediately implement measures decided after last year’s Madrid bombing that would provide monitoring of bank transactions by the police and easier international collaboration between cop agencies.

Civil rights groups such as Liberty have applauded the latest government moves as “a measured response.”

Blair and other government officials have repeatedly said they will not target Muslims indiscriminately in their “antiterrorist” campaign.

In exchange, the government has received public offers of collaboration from some Muslim leaders, locally and nationally. The Muslim Council of Britain has called on Muslims to “unite in helping the police.”